

September 8, 2003

## Legal Notice

### **Notice of Application for Minor Revision 03-002 to Operating Permit 00127 and Availability of Environmental Assessment.**

**Luzenac America (Luzenac) filed an application on August 28, 2003 for a minor revision to Operating Permit 00127 from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Environmental Management Bureau.**

**Luzenac mines talc from the Yellowstone Mine in Madison County near Cameron, which is south of Ennis, MT. Luzenac hauls the talc to either its Three Forks or Sappington mill in Gallatin County for processing. The Sappington Mill is off Highway 287 near the Jefferson River between Three Forks and Harrison, MT. The existing operating permit area at the Sappington Mill is 56.3 acres and is located in Section 31, Township 1 North, Range 1 West.**

**Luzenac is proposing to add a talc slurry circuit to the mill to produce talc slurry products. No additional surface disturbance would result from the minor revision. The minor revision could increase mill employment slightly, depending upon market conditions, but would not increase mill production rates.**

**The reclamation bond would increase from \$41,000 to \$93,000 to cover the costs of cleaning out the slurry tanks at closure. All site improvements would be left as post-mine industrial/agricultural use areas for the ranch which is leasing the property to Luzenac or would be used for another post-mine industrial use on the railroad lease held on the mill site.**

**DEQ has reviewed the plan and completed an environmental assessment (EA). The Draft EA addresses issues and concerns raised during agency scoping. The agencies have selected the Applicant's Proposed Plan with Agency Modifications as the preliminary preferred alternative. This is not a final decision. This conclusion may change based on comments received from the public on this Draft EA, new information, or new analysis that may be needed in preparing the Final EA.**

**Copies of the application and EA can be reviewed by the public at DEQ offices at 1520 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., in Helena, MT. For information on the minor revision and to receive a copy of the environmental analysis please contact: Patrick Plantenberg, P. O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, telephone (406) 444-4960; e-mail address**

[pplantenberg@state.mt.us](mailto:pplantenberg@state.mt.us) . The EA will also be posted on the DEQ web page: [www.deq.state.mt.us](http://www.deq.state.mt.us) .

Public comments concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the Draft EA will be accepted until October 10, 2003. Written comments may be sent to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, attn:

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